Developing Calicut Airport

818. SHRI M. A. BABY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether any new project is being considered for developing the Calicut Airport ; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof including the time limit by when it would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL) : (a) There is at present no project under consideration for developing Calicut airport.

(b) Does not arise.

Night landing facilities at Cochin airport

819. SHRI M.A. BABY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether night landing facilities are likely to be provided at Cochin airport ; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL) : (a) and (b) There is no proposal to provide night landing facilities at Cochin airport, which belongs to the Indian Navy. However, an Abridged Visual Approach Slope Indicator System (AVASIS) has been installed to assist in landing of the aircraft in poor visibility conditions.

New flights from and to Calicut

820. SHRI M.A. BABY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether any new flights are proposed to be started from and to Calicut ;

(b) whether the frequency of Bombay-Calicut flight is also likely to be increased ; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL) : (a) While Indian Airlines has no proposal to start new flights from Calicut, Vayudoot has plans to airlink Calicut with Madras, Cochin, Coimbatore and Agatti.

(b) and (c) Indian Airlines has plans to augment the capacity between Bombay and Calicut by increasing the frequency of the present B-737 services from 4 times a week to a daily service which would depend upon the induction of additional aircraft in Indian Airlines' fleet.

जन्म-शताब्दी समारोह

821. श्री मीर्जा ईर्शादबेग : क्या मानव संपाधन विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) चालू वर्ष के दौरान भारत के किन-किन महान सपूतों की जन्म-शताब्दियां मनाई जा रही हैं और इस संबंध में उनकी वैयक्तिक विशेषताओं को दर्शाने के लिये किन-किन कार्यक्रमों का आयोजन किया जा रहा है तथा ऐसे प्रत्येक कार्यक्रम के लिये आवंटित की गई धनराशि का ब्यौरा क्या है ; और

(ख) इस प्रयोजनार्थ कितनी समितियां गठित की गई हैं और उनके द्वारा आयोजित किये गये कार्यक्रमों का ब्यौरा क्या है ?

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय में शिक्षा और संस्कृति विभागों में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एल० पी० साही) : (क) और (ख) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी ।

New National highway in Kerala

822. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any new National highway is proposed for Kerala ; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and by when construction work is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) and (b) The Government of India have recently declared the Cochin-Madurai Road as a National Highway, which incidentally covers a distance of about 130 kms. in the Kerala State. It is too early to say about the commencement of developmental works.

Declaring Trivandrum airport as an International airport

823. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to declare Trivandrum airport as an international airport ; if not, what are the hurdles in doing so;

(b) which state in India has the highest inflow of passengers (non-resident Indians working or settled abroad) ; and

(c) whether Government are aware that the Keralities working abroad are facing enormous difficulties in their air travel for want of direct international flights to Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL) : (a) Since the existing four international airports are considered adequate to handle the international traffic to and from India, there is no proposal to declare Trivandrum Airport as an International Airport.

(b) The relevant information is not available as separate statistics about embarking/disembarking non-resident Indians are not being maintained with reference to their State of Origin.

(c) Limited international operations by Indian Airlines and Air India have already been permitted from Trivandrum Airport to take care of the traffic requirements.

Applications of foreign airlines to operate from Trivandrum

824. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question 718 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 16th November, 1988 and state :

(a) whether any application from foreign airlines for operating from Trivandrum is pending ; if so, what action Government have taken on these applications ; and

(b) what is the number of international passengers from Kerala during the last three years, yearwise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL) : (a)